

TUCSON ORIENTEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Nov. 1991



DON'T BE A TURKEY: COME TO THE NOVEMBER 17TH MEET AT BAJADA LOOP

by Rachel Gelbin and Chris Hannum

It'll be beautiful and balmy at Bajada Loop for our November 17th meet (Michael G. said it would be like that). Occasional fog notwithstanding, this area in the Saguaro National Monument West is a re-orienteer's paradise, with open spaces (affording good visibility) and beautiful desert scenery. Dale Cole and Kelly Cook are collaborating on a score-O, the goal of which is to visit as many controls as possible within your choice of time limits. If participants come in after their time has expired, they will be severely punished (e.g., beaten, whipped, humiliated; actually it's worse than that--you lose points). Of course, you can do the score-O recreationally, and not concern yourself with points attained or lost.

Beginner's clinic will be held at 9 A.M.,

with start times available from 9:30 A.M. to 12 Noon. Controls will be picked up at 2 P.M.

Volunteers are need to staff the registration and timing tables. Also, due to the large number of controls in a score-O, volunteers are especially crucial for control retrieval. So sign up today with Rachel or Chris (326-7504 or 881-0076, respectively).

Costs are \$4.00 for individuals and \$6.00 for a team, with a \$1.00 discount for club members.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-10 north to Ina Road, then west on Ina to Wade. Go left (south) on Wade (which turns west into Picture Rocks Road). Go 7.4 miles to
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SCATTERINGS FROM CATALINA ST PARK

By Carol Matty

What an exhilarating happening we had at Catalina State Park in October! One hundred and three eager seekers took advantage of the fine weather to head out. It even inspired creative group names like God's Best and the Whistle Blowers.

Roger Sperline and Sue Roberts set the challenging courses and Mike Kessler was the vetter. Roger's wonderful new 20' contour map was the hit of the meet. Those of us who were at the January meet where we used the old 40' map could REALLY appreciate the huge difference the new map makes. All the hard work paid off, you guys! Take a big bow.

Gracias, Mary English for the inspired Beginner's Clinic. April Bahl and Lois Kiminaw, gracias for handling registration. To Mary Jane Santa-Maria and Sue Roberts, gracias for the timing. And muchas muchas gracias to Roger Sperline, Keith McLeod, Sue Roberts, Pat Penn, Mary English and Mary Jane Santa-Maria for staying after it was all over and venturing out to collect the controls from all four courses which Roger and Sue had set Saturday and early Sunday morning.

Oh yes, Peg Davis wanted to point out that three of the men turned out in official orienteering pants, stripes and all!

RECREATIONAL ENTRIES

NOVICE

Lost But Not Forgotten
Angle Fleury
Pidgeon
Las Gruas
Road Runners
The J's
Curtis Jones
Shirley McReynolds
Marley Beard

BASIC

Daniel Perez
Paula Dots
Vi Brown
Karen Strickland
Jane McCrea
La Paz
Knittles
Nubia
Pagnacs

INTERMEDIATE

John Clark
Kim Zeman
Robin Staples
Levine & Massieon
Lost But Not Forgotten
T A Team
God's Best
Theima and Louise
Lost With Tears

RESULTS FROM CATALINA STATE PARK

BASIC

WOMEN

Molly Parsons DNF

MEN

Rashid Alrashid 133:32
Wilbur Liebson DNF

TEAM

Colts 52:54
Bears 57:06
Broncos 67:00
Big Brother/Little Bro. 140:20
Whistle Blowers DNF

INTERMEDIATE

WOMEN

April Bahl 97:30
Carol Kochen 125:50

MEN

Philip Worrall 105:07
Keith McLeod 122:32
Thorn Wade 134:28
Philip G. Lee 148:55

TEAM

Personett/Miller 85:27
Big Horns 90:02
Ahead of Ourselves 101:25
Waltons 101:58
Catalina Javelinas 130:26
Cactus Jumpers 142:14
Cranes 147:57

ADVANCED

WOMEN

Pat Penn 117:54
Helen Deluga 179:15
Marilyn Cleavinger DNF
Peg Davis DNF

TEAM

Lost Boys DNF

MEN

Martin Greiner 66:56
Dan Cobblestick 83:29
Roy Parker 87:05
Mark Parsons 92:19
Dave Askew 128:48
Pete Cowgill 168:49
John Little 172:00
Wilkey Richardson REC
Dale Bruder DNF
Fred Padgett DNF

EXPERIENCES IN COURSE SETTING

by Roger Sperline and Sue Roberts

In setting the courses for the Catalina State Park October Meet, we learned several things (and made some mistakes) we want to share with you.

1. There is as much work (or more) setting courses as in field-checking a map.

2. After field checking the map and roaming about the area for a time, you tend to underestimate the difficulty of a course, especially the basic course. Points and approaches that look obvious to you are not so to those unfamiliar with the area.

3. Control descriptions must be more precise. The Intermediate Control #8 (also Advanced #10) marked "boulder group" was not the only boulder group on the hill, but it was the one of a very few at the flat spot on top of the ridge where it was marked on the map. Advanced runners saw the ridge and flat from the map and generally had little trouble with this control. We received several complaints from Intermediate runners that "I looked behind every rock on the side of the hill"; apparently they missed the map clue that the boulder group was on the top of the spur. Next time I'd add "spur" to the description, at least on the intermediate course, to avoid confusion. More subtle was that we didn't distinguish between small reentrants and small washes. I tended to call reentrants having a wash marking on the map (---) a "wash". Contestants were

looking for larger features when it said "wash junction". This misdirection was definitely my fault.

4. None of the controls were purposely hidden and all the features appeared on the map. (Note for beginners, the symbols on the control cards are supposed to mean the same thing as the written descriptions. They are not additional clues.) For those who understand IOF symbols, I'm (Sue) sorry that the clues were in the wrong boxes. I didn't know that what goes in which box was also specified. Although I had a table of symbols from O.N.A., not all were there, so I had to guess at some. Again, I hope I didn't mislead anyone.

5. What were Roger's intentions with these courses? The Advanced course was supposed to be subtle: parallel features galore. I think there is a tendency for TOC courses to be too physically difficult and not navigationally difficult. I wanted to try a change of emphasis. The Intermediate Course designed to be at a truly intermediate skill level - not a short advanced course, as has sometimes seemed the case. We tried to avoid particularly nasty terrain and vegetation on this course, while offering route choices. The first few controls were designed to allow the contestants to "ease" into the scale of the map. Some of the more advanced Intermediate runners felt the

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course was unusually easy, but most of the runners had problems with one or more of the controls. The Novice/Basic experiment was a flop - not enough benefit for the work involved in setting it up. The Basic course turned out to be more difficult than we'd intended. For example, #1 was on an equestrian trail/old road just around the corner (perhaps 75 meters) from the start. Rather than just run around the hill, many of the runners took a compass bearing and insisted on trying to go over the top of the hill (an unnecessary 50-foot climb and descent) to the control. This made what we thought would be an easy start very difficult. We needed to lead the basic runners into and around their course more gently than we did.

6. More water was needed on the Intermediate and Advanced courses and less for the Basic courses. I figured that people would drink before starting and not need much until later in the course, so I put out more water in the second half than in the first half. Novices need to drink more water! This is something you learn the hard way,

and perhaps a reason so many don't come back for more O. The water we placed on the novice/basic courses was not used.

7. We apologize for mis-marking control #8 on one of the Novice Map Boards. I hope not too many people were misled. Maybe you had a good time anyway, and will come back to try again.

8. Marking the master maps, boards, and cards the day before was a great help. We were ready to start ON TIME.

All in all, course setting is a good way to learn a lot about orienteering in a short time. As long as the runners don't mind being experimental fodder occasionally for new course setters, we recommend others take it up. Thanks go to John Little for his written course setter's guidelines. Thanks also to the Rangers at Catalina State Park for their help with the maps and for allowing us to trample the scenery nearly every weekend since July.

RIBBONS

Have you earned a ribbon and not received it? Sometimes we have a problem matching some of the more creative names to an actual person on the mailing list. There will be a box at the next meet with unclaimed ribbons, but to ensure that yours will be there, please call 529-2140 and leave a message that includes the entry name, the event, the category, the place and the name

of a person on our mailing label (e.g. Troublemakers, Helvetia, Advanced Team, 2nd Place, John Jones).

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE

| | | |
|--------|--------|-------|
| First | Green | East |
| Second | Orange | West |
| Third | Red | South |
| Fourth | Blue | North |

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

by John Maier

We keep coming back to this fundamental necessity of orienteering: it is of paramount importance to know where on the map you are at all times. This doesn't require any supernatural abilities or magical powers. It does require discipline and methodical application of technique. It does require the ability to learn from past mistakes and to break bad habits. The more experience you get through practice or at events, the better are your chances for rapid improvement. Last but not least, it requires self-confidence and the belief that you can do it!

Let's look at some important points: Keep consulting your map. You must be able to reread well. Look at your map frequently as you move through the terrain, not just once a minute or every so often. If you're serious about this, you must always be anticipating what you'll be seeing next and watching for it. If you see a feature that wasn't expected, reconcile it at once. If an error has been made, don't give it the chance to grow. Keep surveying the terrain as you move through it. Put your neck to use turning your head side to side, not just straight ahead. Put your eyes to use by seeing far as well as close. Collect all the data that's available in case your situation becomes less certain two minutes from now and you need to recollect the history of your immediate past. Keep your thumb or compass corner on the spot you are at on the map. (If you lose your place 20% of the

time and it takes you 5 seconds to find it, consulting your map 4 times a minute over a 90 minute run, you spend 6 minutes searching for your place on the map! That's time better spent in some other activity such as surveying the terrain.) These then are some of the most important things to do in keeping in touch with or knowing where you are on the map.

Initially this article was going to start off: "Anticipate, Anticipate, Anticipate." Let's briefly elaborate on the value of anticipation as relates to orienteering. The mind, it seems, has little trouble in molding the visual perception of what it sees in the terrain to fit what is printed on the map (never mind that it may not be a good fit). This can get one into trouble in no time if the real features have been confused with similar but different ones on the map. However, if you FIRST ANTICIPATE from looking at the map what you are ABOUT TO SEE and the reality doesn't fit you should come up with some such thought as: "I didn't expect it to be so big", "It seems broader than I expected", "The angle of the junction is more acute than I'd expected", etc. In short the discrepancy between the reality and the preconception should be the cause for re-evaluation, whereas without the preconception, you'd be more likely to ignore the difference. So practice your map reading and visualization of places on the map, then go to those

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1992 OFFICERS

The following people have volunteered to serve as the TOC Board of Directors for 1992: (Please note that there are still two vacancies. If you would like to volunteer, please call Peg Davis at 628-8985.)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| President | Pat Penn |
| Vice President | |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Wilkey Richardson |
| Membership | Steve Personett |
| Newsletter Editor | |
| Publicity | Peg Davis |
| Equipment | Helen Deluga |
| Map Chairperson | Roger Sperline |

BAJADA LOOP (cont'd from P 1)

Sandario Road. Go left (east) on Kinney Road 0.2 miles to Bajada Drive and turn left (east). Then turn left (north) on Sus Picnic Road and proceed to the picnic area. Due to very limited parking at the meet site, we encourage carpooling. The Wagon Wheel Post has graciously offered us the use of their parking lot. The Post is on the northwest corner of Sandario and Picture Rocks intersection. If you are arriving from Gates Pass, there is parking and carpooling at Red Hills Information Center. Please note the "very limited" parking and try to share the ride. It's a good distance from the Wagon Wheel to the start, but people will always be around to give rides in either direction.

NOTE: Since this is a timed event, each individual or team must have a WATCH. Also, there are only a couple of water controls which, due to the nature of a score-O, you may not even visit, so a canteen or water bottle would be a very good idea.

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Nov. 13 | Business Meeting at Pat Penn's (931 N Norris); 6:30 PM potluck; 7:00 PM meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. |
| Nov 17 | Bajada Loop |
| Nov 23/24 | Western State Championships |
| Dec 10 | Business Meeting at Marilyn Cleavinger's (2926 E Seneca); 6:30 PM potluck; 7:00 PM meeting; All outgoing and incoming officers should attend. All members are encouraged to attend. |
| Dec 15 | Sabino Canyon |

COMPETITIVE EDGE (cont'd from P6)

places to check how well your preconception fits the reality.

The second reason that anticipation is so important is more basic. You can't anticipate without first looking at your map. But then you'll be forced to look again as new questions pop into your mind such as: how many contours high?, the same as here or higher?, just before or just after the boulder?, the first or second bend? So you may be forced to re-check your map 2 or 3 times more after your initial preconception is formed. Each check adds more value to your preconception of the terrain feature(s) you are anticipating. So anticipation reinforces frequent glances at your map. Therefore, I say: "Anticipate, Anticipate, Anticipate." It does make a difference.



Address Correction Requested

Tucson Orienteering Club
P.O. Box 13012
Tucson, Az. 85732

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check One: New Member
 Renewal _____ Date on Mailing Label

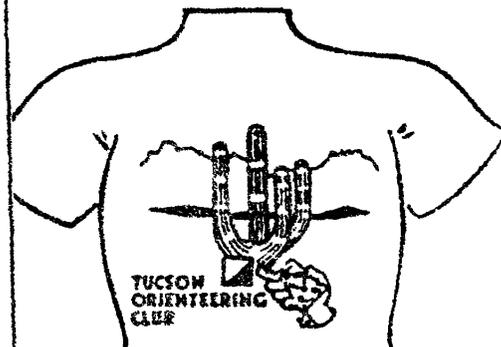
Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Check One: Individual \$8.00
 Family \$11.00

Members receive a monthly newsletter, have voting privileges, and receive a \$1.00 discount per major meet. Make checks payable to : Tucson Orienteering Club, and send to P.O. Box: 13012, Tucson, AZ 85732.



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BODY \$8.**